

October 14, 2010

Brian Ziegler, P.E., Director  
Pierce County Public Works and Utilities  
Tacoma Mall Plaza  
2702 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Ste. 201  
Tacoma, WA 98409-7322

Dear Brian:

The purpose of this letter is to request a letter expressing the county's position on the existing bridge over the Puyallup River on SR 162, near milepost 6.8. As you are aware, we are in the final stages of design to replace the existing bridge with a new bridge that will be constructed downstream (east) of the existing bridge.

This bridge is also referred to as the McMillin Bridge and it is on the National Register of Historic Properties. Consequently, we are working through the Section 106 process with the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency. One of the alternatives to preserve the existing bridge that has been discussed involves Pierce County taking over ownership of this bridge. Some of the ideas that have been discussed involve connecting the Foothills Trail to this bridge either as a replacement for the existing path across the Puyallup River, or as an additional section of trail. We have had conversations with Grant Griffin in the Parks Department and his staff have evaluated this concept and expressed that they do not have any interest in this bridge.

Another topic that was expressed by a consulting party was that Pierce County may want to keep all bridges in this valley such that in the event of a lahar, there would be multiple escape routes for the public. In order for you to evaluate this concept, I felt it was important for you to know that SR 162 is being realigned to the east to connect up with the new bridge and it will be approximately 6 ft. higher in elevation than the existing roadway. We are planning to remove the existing roadway to reduce the amount of impervious surface and to make room for a stormwater pond and revegetation. We would like the county's letter to address this topic as well.

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Attached is a graphic to help you understand the scope of the project. If you have any questions, please give me a call at (360) 570-6664.

Sincerely,

Steve Fuchs, P.E.

Project Manager

SF

Attachment: Project vicinity map

cc: Jeff Sawyer  
JoAnn Schueler  
Project file